



December 2, 2013

**COCA Updates** are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **December 16**.

This issue contains information from **November 18 – December 2, 2013** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).

#### Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)

[COCA Home Page](#)

#### Topics and Highlights

[COCA News and Announcements](#)

[CDC News and Announcements](#)

[Public Health Preparedness](#)

[Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)

[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#) *Notice to Healthcare Providers: Recognizing and Reporting Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Associated with Outbreaks at Princeton University and the University of California at Santa Barbara*

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug and Device Safety](#)

## COCA News and Announcements

### Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

#### Assessing Risk and Strengthening Community-wide Preparedness

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2013

Risk assessments are a vital source of baseline information for preparedness planning. Community decisions made now affect the lives and investments of everyone in the community for decades. Therefore, it is important to collaborate with key stakeholders when using risk assessment tools to decide which hazards require attention and what actions must be planned for to protect the people, property, and environment. During this COCA Call/Webinar, learn how the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center developed partnerships between health care and public health agencies to assess their community's risk and improve their community-based planning.

**CE** = Continuing Education

[http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo\\_111413.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_111413.asp)

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

## CDC News and Announcements

**NEW:** CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden Releases Winnable Battles Progress Report 2010 - 2015 – November 21 (CDC)

We know the leading causes of injury, illness, disability, and death for Americans. Many of these result in needless suffering because, in fact, we have the knowledge and tools that could make a difference. The Winnable Battles listed below aren't CDC's only health priorities, but they are areas where dedicated focus can quickly achieve good results.

<http://www.cdc.gov/about/cdcdirector/winnablebattles.html>

## **CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 40 – (CDC)**

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

## **Public Health Preparedness**

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)**

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)**

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

## **Natural Disasters and Severe Weather**

### **NEW: Winter Weather Health and Safety Tip – November 25 (CDC)**

When temperatures drop significantly below normal, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Taking preventive action is your best defense against having to deal with extreme cold-weather conditions.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/>

### **Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

### **Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

## **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)**

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

**November 22, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 46** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Outbreaks of Human Metapneumovirus in Two Skilled Nursing Facilities — West Virginia and Idaho, 2011–2012](#)
- [Fixed Drug Eruption Associated with Sulfonamides Sold in Latino Grocery Stores — Greater Washington, DC, Area, 2012–2013](#)
- [Childhood Lead Exposure Associated with the Use of Kajal, an Eye Cosmetic from Afghanistan — Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2013](#)
- [Health-Care Provider Screening for Tobacco Smoking and Advice to Quit — 17 Countries, 2008–2011](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

**NEW: CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): CDC Health Advisory: Notice to Healthcare Providers: Recognizing and Reporting Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Associated with Outbreaks at Princeton University and the University of California at Santa Barbara – November 27 (CDC)**

The purpose of this advisory is (1) to alert healthcare providers and health departments about a prolonged meningococcal disease outbreak at Princeton University and a recent outbreak at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), and the potential for cases to occur among students traveling to their home states for Thanksgiving break, (2) to advise healthcare providers about reporting suspected cases of meningococcal disease to the New Jersey Department of Health and California Department of Public Health, and (3) to provide information about PCR testing of isolates from serogroup B meningococcal disease cases at CDC.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00357.asp>

### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

**Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – November 22 (CDC)**

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

### Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

**NEW: FDA approval of avian flu vaccine moves preparedness forward – November 22 (HHS)**

The nation marks a historic step in pandemic preparedness today with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s approval of our first adjuvanted pandemic influenza vaccine, Q-pan, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to protect against H5N1 influenza.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/11/20131122a.html>

**Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – November 25 (CDC)**

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

### Seasonal Influenza

**NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Flu Fighting Facts: How to stay healthy this flu season – November 20 (CDC)**

Flu activity is currently low in the United States, but is expected to increase in the coming weeks, making now a great time to prepare. Flu infects millions of people every flu season and causes an estimated 200,000-plus people each year to be hospitalized.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/11/flu-fighting-facts/>

**Weekly Flu View – November 22 (CDC)**

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

**Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)**

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

## Travel Safety

### **Current Travel Warnings – November 22 (US Department of State)**

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

### **Update: Multistate Outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli O157:H7 Infections Linked to Ready-to-Eat Salads – November 21 (CDC)**

As of November 19, 2013, a total of 32 persons infected with the outbreak strain of STEC O157:H7 have been reported from four states.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2013/O157H7-11-13/index.html>

### **NEW: FDA Recall Press Release: Marina's German Bakery Issues Allergy Alert on Undeclared Almonds, Walnuts, and Hazelnuts in Pastry Products – November 20 (FDA)**

Marina's German Bakery of El Paso, Texas is recalling two-count packages of pastry products, because they may contain undeclared Almonds, Walnuts, or Hazelnuts. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to Almonds, Walnuts, or Hazelnuts run the risk of serious or life threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm376159.htm>

### **MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)**

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

### **FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)**

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

### **[Return to Top of Page](#)**

---

The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

**For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov)**

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



*The CDC and HHS logos are the exclusive property of the Department of Health and Human Services and may not be used for any purpose without prior express written permission. Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the US Department of Health and Human Services.*

*Links to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Links do not constitute an endorsement of any organization by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organizations.*

To **unsubscribe**, please send an email to [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov) with “**unsubscribe**” in the subject line. The CDC COCA Listserv unsubscribe link below is not active. Please email COCA to unsubscribe.